

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0531

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1181

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT LY EG

SUBJECT: QADHAFI ON EGYPT/LIBYAN RELATIONS AND THE REVOLUTION

1. NEWSWEEK EDITOR DE BORCHGRAVE HAD HOUR-LONG EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH QADHAFI SEPT 11 AND BRIEFED ME ON IT IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER. FOR VARIOUS REASONS, THE INTERVIEW MAY NOT BE PUBLISHED. THEREFORE REQUEST THE FOLLOWING BE TREATED AS PRIVILEGED INFO UNTIL PUBLISHED.

2. AFTER SEVERAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT LIBYAN OIL POLICY (SEPTEL) AND A BRIEF TROT OVER QADHAFI'S VIEWS ON ME SITUATION (NOTHING NEW), DE BORCHGRAVE TURNED TO UNITY WITH EGYPT AND THE LIBYAN REVOLUTION. BY THIS TIME THE INTERPRETER ADMITTED HE WAS NOT UP TO THE JOB AND QADHAFI EXPRESSED HIMSELF SOLELY IN ENGLISH (WHICH DE BORCHGRAVE SAID WAS SURPRISINGLY ADEQUATE).

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3. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ON HOW LONG HE COULD WAIT FOR THE "STAGES OF UNITY" TO BE COMPLETED, QADHAFI REPLIED "ONLY A FEW MONTHS." ASKED IF HE BELIEVED SADAT WAS STALLING, QADHAFI REPLIED THAT SADAT WAS NOT AGAINST UNITY BUT WANTED IT ONLY IF IT WERE STRONG AND LASTING. DE BORCHGRAVE THEN AVERRED THAT HE KNEW EGYPTIAN OPINION WAS GENERALY AGAINST IT. QADHAFI REPLIED THAT DE BORCHGRAVE WAS MISINFORMED; THE EGYPTIANS JUST WANTED TO MOVE SLOWER.

4. ASKED HOW HE VIEWED SADAT'S CLOSER RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND JORDAN, QADHAFI REPLIED "THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH US".

5. DE BORCHGRAVE THEN TURNED TO LIBYA'S POPULAR REVOLUTION, MENTIONED THE ARREST OF HUNDRES OF PERSONS FOR "POLITICAL SICKNESS", AND ASKED WHO DETERMINES WHO IS SICK. QADHAFI REPLIED, "THE MASSES".

6. RETURNING TO EGYPT, DE BORCHGRAVE ASKED QADHAFI'S VIEW ON THE CURRENT TREND OF "DENASSERIZATION". QADHAFI RESPONDED THAT IT WAS "IMPORTANT TO STOP THIS ROT" AND IT WOULD BE STOPPED THROUGH UNITY. "WITH THEIR INTELLECT AND OUR REVOLUTIONARY ZEAL WE COULD CREATE SOMETHING WORTHWHILE."

7. FINALLY DE BORCHGRAVE ASKED A QUESTION THAT HAS BEEN PUZZLING HIM ABOUT CONTRADICTIONS WITH LIBYAN FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICIES, E.G. ALL THE NOISE ABOUT SOCIALISM WHILE HE HIMSELF HAS MET SEVERAL LIBYAN CONTRACTORS WHO ARE MAKING MILLIONS. QADHAFI REPLIED THAT THE LIBYAN REVOLUTION STANDS ESSENTIALLY FOR PROGRESS, WHICH MEANS SOCIALISM, PLANNED PROSPERITY FOR ALL, AND JUSTICE. HE DENIED THERE WERE MILLIONAIRES HERE (THIS IS OBVIOUSLY FALSE) BUT SAID THERE WERE ENTREPRENEURS WHO CONTRIBUTE TO PROGRESS BECAUSE THEIR MONEY IS BEING PUT TO WORK. THEY ARE A "NECESSARY EVIL" AT THIS STAGE--BUT THERE WILL BE FURTHER STAGES OF THE REVOLUTION.

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